

Frankford Arsenal, Building 217
North side of Hagner Road between Montgomery Street
and Mellon Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-74L

NO. 74
PA,
S. PHILA.
693-L

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Frankford Arsenal, Building 217

HAER No. PA-74L

HAER
PA
SL-PHILA.
693-L-

Location: North side of Hagner Road between Montgomery Street and Mellon Street
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1899

Significance: Constructed in 1899 as a boiler house for the new small arms cartridge factory and introduced into Building 215 in 1898, Building 217 is associated with the modest expansion of Frankford Arsenal that occurred at the turn of the century.

Historian: Patrick O'Bannon
Principal Historian
John Milner Associates, Inc.
1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

August 1988

HISTORY

The northern section of Building 217, measuring approximately 40 feet by 42 feet, was constructed in 1899, probably as the boiler house for the new small arms cartridge factory introduced into Building 215 the previous year. In 1916, the building was enlarged by the construction of a 42-foot-long addition to the south. It was probably at this time that the building was converted for use as a lead shop and a wash room. In 1942, a third addition to the south facade added another 27 feet to the building. A stair tower was constructed in the southeast corner of the building at the same time as this addition.

DESCRIPTION

Building 217 is a two-story brick building, portions of which date to 1899. The north end of the building, constructed in 1899, has a random, rough-faced schist foundation with a brownstone watertable. The southern portion, constructed in 1916 and, 1942, has a foundation of coursed ashlar schist with a brownstone watertable. The 1899 and 1916 portions of the building have a gabled roof, covered with composition roofing, with a glazed, gable-roofed monitor and corbeled brick cornice. The 1942 addition has a slate gable roof with a corbeled brick cornice. Window openings are segmentally arched with brownstone hoods and sills. Brownstone belt courses are located at window sill height. Window sash are six-over-six double-hung units. A plain oculus window is located in the north gable. A two-story passageway attached to north elevation connects with Building 215. A single-story passageway, built in 1941, connects to Building 216 on the west. The interior is open, with a single row of steel columns.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal" (West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 1979).

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District. Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies at Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Free Library, and Philadelphia Historical Commission.

